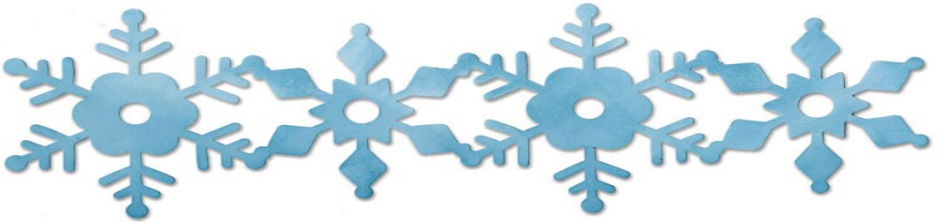


CTK Communiqué

January 2024



CTK Church -Trenton Rd. Campus

15600 Trenton Rd., Southgate, MI 48195

Church Office Hours: Mon-Fri 8:30am—3:00 p.m.

Church Office Phone: (734)285-9695

Church FAX: (734)285-4188

CTK Day School - Trenton Rd.

School Office Hours: Mon-Fri 8:30 a.m.—4:00 p.m.

School Office Phone: (734)285-9697

School FAX: (734)285-5275

CTK Church - Pennsylvania Rd. Campus

16700 Pennsylvania Rd., Southgate, MI 48195

Main Phone: (734)285-9695

Day Care - Pennsylvania Rd. Campus

Day Care Hours: Mon-Fri 6:30 a.m.—6:00 p.m.

Day Care Phone: (734)285-8525

CTK Pre-School : (734)285-0903

www.ctk.me



Trenton Road Campus

Saturday Worship 5:00 PM

Bible Study 6:00 PM

Sunday Worship: 9:00 AM

11:00 AM

Bible Study/Sunday School

10:00-10:45 AM



FAITHFUL STEWARDS

Financial Snapshot – Through November, 2023

INCOME (General Fund):	<u>November 2023</u>	<u>Year To Date</u>
Church receipts	\$ 117,528.48	\$1,229,018.29
Tuition	\$ 92,438.09	\$ 879,771.80
TOTAL INCOME	\$ 209,966.57	\$2,108,790.09
BUDGETED EXPENSES:	\$ 235,650.00	\$2,252,640.00
INCOME OVER/(UNDER) BUDGET	\$ (24,683.43)	\$ (143,849.91)

	<u>November 2023</u>	<u>Year To Date</u>
TOTAL INCOME	\$ 209,966.57	\$ 2,108,790.09
ACTUAL EXPENSES:	\$ 240,205.32	\$ 2,156,037.13
INCOME OVER/(UNDER) EXPENSE	\$ (30,238.75)	\$ (47,247.04)

While this has been a challenging year financially, we rejoice in God's provisions for His people. We've used a little over \$47,000 from our savings to meet expenses through November. The good news is those funds are available without hindering any of our ministries. We pray for our continued faithful stewardship as 2023 concludes, and look forward to serving in God's kingdom in the New Year! "His master said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master.'" (Matthew 25:21)

WE ARE
so grateful
FOR YOU!

FROM THE FINANCIAL OFFICE END OF THE YEAR....

Here are a few points to remember from the Financial Office, as this year draws to a close:

Qualified Charitable Distributions –Taxpayers over the age of 70 ½ are able to make tax-free charitable donations directly from their IRAs to a qualified non-profit, such as Christ The King Lutheran Church. With the end of the year approaching this is a great way to help your church and meet your required minimum distributions from your IRA. Please contact your IRA trustee or financial institution for additional information.

2024 Offering Envelopes are now available in the West Gallery at Trenton Rd. After January 14th, you may pick them up in the church office. Please email kelly@ctk.me or call the church office if you do not currently have envelopes assigned to you and would like some.

Giving -All donations must be received by Dec 31st in order to be listed on your contribution statement for the year. CTK is able to accept qualified charitable contributions from your IRA. Please contact your IRA trustee or financial institution for additional information.

Contribution statements will be available online at myctk.me for members after January 17th, 2024. If we have your current email on file, you will automatically receive a secured link to your contribution statement the week of January 14th.

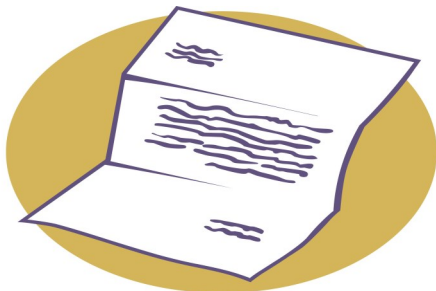
A quick way to give on-the-go is via text; just text CTKGIVE to 73256. May God bless your family and giving this year!!



Scrap Metal, Cans/Bottles & Capital Fund Drive Fundraising

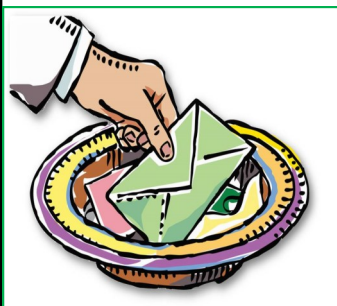
	<u>2022</u>	<u>2023</u>	<u>Total (since 2006 start)</u>
“C” Dollars	\$ 1,089.00	\$ 1,312.00	\$ 23,894.00
Scrap Metal	\$ 2,470.83	\$ 2,501.94	\$ 54,211.15
Bottles	\$ 3,334.40	\$ 2,507.04	\$ 44,078.74
Paper Recycle	\$ 40.52	\$ 52.26	\$ 770.39

ANNUAL CONTRIBUTION STATEMENTS



2023 Contribution Statements

If we have your current email on file, you will automatically receive a secured link to your contribution statement the week of January 14th. Please contact the church office if you need to update your email address. They will also be available to members on MyCTK January 17th. (www.ctk.me, click on MyCTK at the top of the website) If you do not know your password, please go through the steps to change it. If you have problems logging in, please contact Lisa Demou in the Church Office.



2024 OFFERING ENVELOPES

Envelopes are now available in the West Gallery. After January 14th, you may pick them up in the church office. If you would like to request envelopes, you may complete the form on the table near Ministry Center, email kelly@ctk.me or call the church office. God bless your giving!

Church Office Hours

The church office hours are as follows:

Monday - Friday 8:30am to 3pm

Closed: Monday, January 1



2023 Contribution Statements

Your giving statement will be available no later than January 17, 2024 through one of the following methods:

- ◆ CTK Members can go to the website (www.ctk.me) and follow the instructions to sign in to MyCTK.
- ◆ If you would like your statement mailed or printed to pick up in the church office, request forms will be available outside the sanctuaries starting January 6th. You can also request at www.ctk.me under Forms.
- ◆ If we have your current email on file, you will automatically receive a secured link to your statement the week of January 14th. Please contact the church office if you need to update your email address or had any trouble receiving your statement via email last year.
- ◆ Please contact Kelly in the church office with any questions regarding your statement kelly@ctk.me or (734) 285-9695 ext. 160

I am requesting my 2023 Contribution Statement:

Please: _____ Mail or _____ Hold in Church Office for pick up

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

YOUR GIVING MATTERS!

Spiritual Care Ministry

The Spiritual Care Ministry at CTK focuses on persons in the congregation who are hospitalized, confined to their home, reside in a nursing home or may be recovering from a surgery in a rehab facility. Please let us know if you have a family member or friend who needs a visitation, where they will hear the Word and receive **Holy Communion**. Contact Harry Dutka: (734) 285 9695 Ext. 150 or hdutka@ctk.me

Prayer Requests:

Jessica Bourassa (734) 285 9695 Ext. 100
jessica@ctk.me

Lisa Demou (734) 285 9695 Ext. 210
lisa@ctk.me

1,482 Spiritual Care visits from January 1 – December 12th

WAYS TO GIVE YOUR TITHE & GIFTS

- **In Person**
- **Online:** Scan the QR code to be directly sent to the online giving [link](#)
- **Online:** Members may visit www.ctk.me and click on “MYctk” at the top of the homepage to log in, select “Giving” then “Give Now” to set up a one time or recurring payment
- **Text:** Visitors/Members text ‘CTKGIVE’ to 73256 to receive a secured link
- **Mail:** Mail to CTK, 15600 Trenton Rd., Southgate, MI 48195



ONLINE GIVING & TEXT GIVE OF TITHES/ CONTRIBUTIONS We are grateful for the opportunity to accept contributions online via MYctk and through text giving. Just as a reminder, if possible, please use your banking account information, rather than a card number, to save on processing fees, which start at 2.6%. This cuts back on monthly expenses and, in turn, more of your gift goes directly to the mission of your church. Thank you for your faithfulness!





Memorial Gifts

In Memory of Joan Dyer

To the Food Pantry Given by:

Nancey Henderson

M/M Gerald Kelly

Judy Bielby

Betty Hines

Deborah Taylor

Jane Edgworth

Dorothy Reaume

Mary Lou Jenkins

Mr. & Mrs. Andrew Ferrans

Barbara Calandra

Gifts to School, Given by:

Mary Lou Jenkins

To Alms Given By:

Judy Bielby

In Memory of Bill Floetke

To the Memorial Fund: Given By:

Eleanor Floetke

In Memory of Karen Gibbs

To the Food Pantry, Given by:

M/M Mel Grahil

M/M Joe Bollo

M/M Robert Murphy

To Alms Given by:

Judy Bielby

In Memory of Judy Kwasniewski

To the Memorial Fund Given by:

Beverly Creutz

Gifts to School, Given by:

M/M Roy Thomas

In Memory of Dominick and Mona Marano

To the Food Pantry, Given by:

M/M David Lumley

In Memory of I Meininger

To the Food Panty Given by:

Dorothy Reaume

M/M Dennis Watterson

Nancy Nissen

In Memory of Robert Reaume

To Alms Given By:

Judy Bielby

In Memory of Bud Shoup

To the Food Pantry, Given by:

M/M Joe Bollo

M/M Robert Murphy

In Memory of Eileen Wolff

To the Food Pantry, Given by:

Ann Twork

Sylvia Ziesmer

Nancy Kurtz

M/M Roy Landberg

Darlene Kozsey

M/M Robert Murphy

Delmer Wolff

Anonymous Gift

To Alms Given By:

Judy Bielby



CTK Stephen Ministers: In Our Own Words

Stephen Ministers at Christ The King Lutheran Church help serve this congregation and community. We take this opportunity to hon-
or the memory of Al Meininger, our fellow Stephen Minister, by re-
printing here his testimony from earlier this year. Al was passionate
about his service, and he will be sorely missed by his Stephen Minis-
try team. May it inspire you to consider following his example.

After retirement, I found time available to help and give back to the community. In Galatians 6:2 it says, "Carry each other's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ." So I went looking for a volunteer job that would fit my abilities and conform to this passage. I saw an invitation to an information meeting to learn about the Stephen Ministry and decided to find out what it was about.

Well, during my life, I found myself to be more of a listener of stories rather than a teller of stories. Not that I was always a patient listener – I still need practice in this area, even to this day! Also, I never had a problem keeping a secret, and my close friends would come and use me as a sounding board to vent their frustrations in life such as work, girls, parents, siblings, etc. In learning about Stephen Ministry, I found listening and confidentiality, the things I'm good at doing, were two main requirements in being a good Stephen Minister. So I took the Training Class.

Now, as a trained Stephen Minister, I have a deep sense of fulfillment and gratitude in being able to help someone in the community outside my circle of family and friends. Not as a trained professional! Not as a therapist, nor a counselor, nor a psychiatrist. I'm just helping a fellow Christian by providing a caring, listening, confidential ear in a way Jesus would approve.

the late Al Meininger, beloved CTK Stephen Minister

ChristNet Ministry, 2023

CTK will provide backpacks in 2024 for approximately 30 people who seek emergency overnight shelter at the new Wayne Metro and ChristNet Services facility in River Rouge. A Signup Genius link will be available the beginning of January, with specific donation requests. Backpacks will be packed the first week of February. We will be able to include a set of thermals for each guest, thanks to your generosity during the Thermal Giving Drive this year! Thank you for your continued support! Please contact Jen Gepes at jellen71@comcast.net or 734.775.1972 with any questions, or if you would like to volunteer for this ministry.



Thank You

The words "Thank You" is never enough when it comes to how our congregation pulls together. This past Christmas Basket season, CTK helped with 45 food baskets and toys for 127 children. In addition, 8 families were "adopted" by small groups, families and other parents. Big thanks to all those that helped put the food and toy baskets together, donated gifts and gift cards. May God's blessings shine on you always!



Thank you, Lisa Demou



59+ GROUP Who wants to do some chair exercise? Meet us in the Cana Room on WEDNESDAY, January 17th from 1:00-2:15pm. Expect a lot of giggles. Everyone is welcome, 59+ or not!

Family Connection Ministry FAMILY MOVIE NIGHT

When? Friday, January 19th at 6:30 P.M.

Where? Christ The King Pennsylvania
Road Campus Gym

What? Popcorn, a movie, and time to
connect with other families. Bring your
own blankets, pillows, and a drink!

Questions? Message us on the FCM
Facebook page



FCM Family Movie Night

Join us on Friday, January 19th for a Family Movie Night in the Christ The King Lutheran Church gym (Pennsylvania Rd Campus) at 6:30 P.M. We will provide the movie, popcorn, and a sweet treat - all you need to bring is something comfy to sit on, drinks, and friends! We can't wait to see you there!





As we begin a new year, many of us are thinking about goals and New Year's resolutions for 2024. I know that sometimes it is frustrating when you start out the new year with a new resolution, but then inevitably fail at doing whatever that thing is. One example would be reading the Bible. (This is my personal favorite new year's resolution, by the way.) You can make a resolution and say "I will read the Bible every single day." But then on January 6th, when you don't read the Bible, it feels like your entire new goal is a failure. I like to frame my goals like this instead: "My goal is to read the Bible 200 times this year." Then, if you don't read the Bible on January 6th, that's ok, just read it tomorrow. This life is not about doing things perfectly; it's about following a Savior who does. And I really do love Bible reading new year's resolutions; I encourage you to join me in setting a goal to read the Bible just a little bit more this year than you did last year. No one looks back on their life and wishes they had spent less time devoted to God's Word. Let's discover together what God has in store for us this year here at Christ The King!

SMP Program Update: At the beginning of this month, I will be spending a week in St. Louis for my next class, which is called Means of Grace. This week is not quite as much fun as the summer week in St. Louis because I am missing school here at CTK, but I am looking forward to lots of learning and some fellowship with my classmates. We all stay in a house together during the week we are all on campus. As always, thank you for your continued prayers and support!

In Christ, Vicar Brooks





CTK Youth Group NEWSLETTER

Youth Group Calendar

January 2024

7	6:00 pm - ALL SpringHill attendee meeting
7	Youth Group
14	Youth Group
19-21	SpringHill
21	No Youth
28	Youth Group



Jesus and Donuts
with Gina -
Youth Bible Study
Sunday 10 am
Cana Room



2025 National Youth Gathering Parent Meeting

If your Youth is in 7th grade and/or will be 14 years old by June 2025 and is interested in going to the National Youth Gathering in New Orleans, this meeting is for you. Join us February 18, 2024 at 5:30 PM in the PA Rd Atrium

Fundraising Information

Sweetheart Dance – February 3, 2024

Lent Dinners (Wednesday) Feb 14-March 20, 2024

We have National Youth Gathering in 2025 (any youth in 7th grade now or that will be 14 in June 2025). We have a lot of money to raise. I am always looking for fundraising ideas. Please let me know any ideas you have and I can get a list together to get things approved.



Youth T-shirt & hoodies

Have you seen the Youth Group t-shirt??

Would you like one for yourself?

The t-shirts are black and a soft cotton blend and the hoodies are black and cotton.

Cost is \$22 for t-shirt and \$35 for hoodies. Contact Gina

to order yours by February 4.

CTK ROOTED
UNDERBASE
HIGHLIGHT





I suppose that many of us look back on 2023, recalling some great experiences or other occasions that we wish had never happened.

For me, a high point was the March for Life at the Michigan State Capitol in Lansing on November 8. Fellow member, Mark McCormick, met me on the Capitol's lawn. On our right was a group of students from Lutheran North High School, Macomb. On our left were my good friends Pastor Ron and Chris Schultz from Holland, MI. Also near us were two veterans: the one in a wheelchair had a uniform that identified him as a former chaplain in Vietnam, and the other wore a cap that said SEAL.

The speakers were well-spoken and energetic. One woman spoke of her marriage of 41 years. She and her husband were blessed to have 3 children, adopted 4 more, and fostered many others. Wow! Another speaker had had 5 abortions. She had heard only the statement, "It's your body." She was not aware of the other option until she saw a wristband which encouraged the life choice. The woman said she took comfort in Jesus' words to the woman caught in adultery in John 8:1-11. A pastor was the third main speaker. He had helped begin the group of Woodside churches where a total of 11,000 now worship each week.

Barbara Listing of Michigan Right to Life spoke. Some members of our State Legislature spoke of their Christian faith and their desire to protect life in the womb.

The last estimate of attendees that I have heard was 4,500.

Pastor Harry



Looking for a Fun Ministry?

We are looking for a Bible snack host/hostess to purchase snacks for two weekends each month on Sunday morning. Contact the church office for more information in regards to payment of snacks and what to purchase.



15 Common Assumptions that Can Hurt Your Relationship

If you truly loved me

- you'd know what I was thinking.
- you'd know what I wanted.
- you'd want the same exact goals I do.
- you'd always put me first.
- our relationship wouldn't feel like it was so much work.
- you'd want to do what I want you to do.
- you'd think more like me.
- you'd act more like me.
- we wouldn't have to talk about so many hard subjects.
- our love would look more like a romantic comedy.
- we'd do chores in the same way.
- we'd never fight.
- I'd feel your love all the time.
- you'd meet all my needs.

Instead of making assumptions, live by Philippians 2:3, where your spouse is concerned. "In humility count others more significant than yourselves." Sheila Seifert

"Originally published in the April/May 2023 issue of Focus on the Family magazine. © 2023 Focus on the Family. Reprinted with permission."



GriefShare

**The fall session ended on November 20.
Dates for winter/spring sessions will be announced soon. Thank you to all who support this ministry.**

SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER - JANUARY

***"TRAIN UP A CHILD IN THE WAY HE
SHOULD GO, AND WHEN HE IS OLD
HE WILL NOT TURN FROM IT."
PROVERBS 22:6 NIV***



***Brooklynn Brasgalla
Juliana Chicko
Amelia Clifton
Nora Clifton
Callie Holzer***

***Jaida Johnson
Evelyn Stitman
Camila Tank
Teacher:
Kristi Murphy***

THANK YOU FOR BIBLE BUCKS!

We had a wonderful Bible Bucks Store on December 10th! A great big THANK YOU to our Dear Mrs. Zanley and Mrs. Kane for another great shopping spree! Bible Bucks is an incentive program that rewards Sunday School kids for just showing up! Every time they come, they earn 2 Bible Bucks. Several times a year, the Bible Bucks store will open and Sunday School students can spend their hard-earned Bucks!



ChristNet Service Project



Thank you for all your generous support! Your children provided goody bags for over 120 of Downriver's homeless for the past three months. Bags were decorated with seasonal stickers and drawings and filled with fruit, snacks and treats and heartfelt words of encouragement!

Something for Everyone

Just a little reminder and a wonderful idea for a New Year's Resolution - The Sunday School hour has something for everyone! From Parent/Tot class to High School Bible Study, there is a Bible Study offered at every age.



High School students (and Confirmation Students, when Confirmation class is not in session) can join Gina Davidson in the Cana Room to share a little physical and spiritual sweet! Everyone discusses the same topic so families can compare notes and further discussion on the car ride home and around the dinner table. It's a great way to bring Jesus into your family discussion!

Coming up in January

January 7 : Lesson 12 - A confident Confession-
Peter confesses Christ; Matt 16:13

January 14: Lesson 13 -Jesus' Transfiguration;
Luke 9:28 & Visit from Caleb D and Kim Beaudrie

January 21: Lesson 14 - Mission Wonders -
Jesus sends the Seventy-two; Luke 10

January 28: Unit 8; Lesson 1

Happy New Year!



NEW YEAR'S EVE SERVICE

**No 7:00 p.m. worship service. Please
join us for morning 9:00 & 11:00
services at Trenton Rd.**

New Year's Eve
SERVICE



Mark Your Calendars **2024 Euchre Dates**

**January 13, February 10, March 9,
April 20, May 18, September 14 &
October 12**

We play in the Atrium at the PA Rd Campus, starting at 7pm SHARP! (Sorry, but we are unable to accommodate latecomers.) Cost is \$3 per person. Each player is asked to bring a beverage and snack to share. Partners are not necessary and guests are welcome. This is a FUN event and prizes are awarded.

Questions? Contact Mike Shoup 734.624.4350 or
blueknight007@hotmail.com

GATHER AND GROW BOOK CLUB

This monthly-meet-up book club is a place for women of all ages (high school and older) to read Christian fiction and nonfiction, gather and discuss as a group, and grow in our faith together. Our first meetup will be Monday, January 29 at 7pm in the West Gallery to discuss the book "Begin Again" by Max Lucado. We will be going over Chapters 1-6 (pages 1-50), along with the questions for those chapters, which can be found in the back of the book. Please call the church office to register or to get on our Book Club email list. You can purchase your own book online, in a bookstore or check it out at your local library.



STUDY GROUP

Weekend Adult and Kid's Bible Study

- ♦ **Saturday Bible Study** meets in the West Gallery at 6pm at Trenton Rd. Thank you to Richard & Suzanne Todd for being our hostess.
- ♦ **Sunday Adult Bible Study** meets in the Trenton Rd. Gym at 10am.

Bible Study Coffee & Snack located in the kitchen window

- ♦ **Children's Sunday School Rooms:**
 - Youth – Cana Room
 - Various Classrooms (look for signs or stop in the SS office)
 - Confirmation – Upper Room
 - Parent/Tot/Nursery – 3 yr. Preschool Room

MIDWEEK BIBLE STUDY GROUPS

Women's Bible Study

Women's Bible Study meets on Wednesdays at 9:00am at PA Rd. in the Fellowship Center, classroom #4. Class is led by Nancy Kurtz.

Men's Bible Study

Men's Bible Study meets Wednesday's at 8:00 AM in the Atrium with Pastor Terry.



FUNDRAISING DINNER RAFFLE EVENT

Save the date!!! - Friday, Feb. 2, 2024

Due to the damaging storms and tornadoes we had this past August, the Annual CTK Golf Outing was cancelled. Mark your calendars for the new fundraising event, being held on Friday, Feb. 2, 2024. ChristNet and the CTK Food Pantry will be the charities that will benefit. Dinner, cash bar, live music by the band Acoustic Beer League, raffles, and silent auction will be held at: Brickhouse Brands on Bidle Ave. in Wyandotte. Tickets to be purchased in advance only. (Please watch for pricing information.)



ALTAR FLOWERS ARE BACK!



ALTAR FLOWERS

Flowers will be available for purchase, beginning in January, 2024, in memory or in honor of a loved one, i.e. for anniversaries, birthdays, etc. The sign-up chart is available in the West Gallery. As before, you can take the flowers home to enjoy, immediately following the 11am service. Due to inflation, cost will be \$25 per vase. Payment may be placed in the offering basket. Please designate "altar flowers" on the envelope.

Altar flowers

Donation Station

Donation Station is open on Thursday's from 12:00 – 2:00 and Saturday's from 10:00 -12:00.

We are in need of baby clothes, jewelry, and all types of kitchen items. If you would like to help in this unique ministry, please contact carol@ctk.me or 734-281-3773.



Day School News

Happy New Year! We have much to look forward to in 2024! This month, we will wrap up the first semester. The third quarter of 2023/2024 brings National Lutheran Schools Week, our second annual Family Fun Night, and Kindergarten Round-Up. It's also the exciting time of year when we start focusing on the upcoming school year. Registration for the 24/25 school year will begin on January 29 for current church member school families. Current non-CTK member school families will be able to register on February 5. We will welcome church and daycare families to register on February 19. Open registration begins on February 26. Please contact admissions@ctk.me for more information. It's an exciting time to be a panther!

I want to extend a special thank you to all who attended our Children's Christmas Program. It was such a beautiful celebration of our Savior's birth. We were so happy to share our program with so many. Thank you for your continued support of our school.

God's Blessings, Dr. Kelli Kapp-Heifner



FOOD PANTRY

Beginning on January 4, 2024, our Christ The King Food Pantry will be open **every other week**. This has been necessitated for financial reasons. Our congregation, Meijer Simply Give, and individual donors continue to "step up to the plate." The challenge has been a continued increase of families needing food assistance. Though the price of gasoline is finally going down, the price of many other products remain at high inflation levels. Our volunteers remain energetically committed to serving Jesus through the Pantry. Your giving has remained extremely generous. Thank you!

Periodically, we will check finances and re-assess our situation. Dates for distribution will be found in the bulletin and newsletter calendars.

Pastor Harry for "The Friendly 30"

Open: January 4th and 18th, February 1st, 15th and 29th



JOIN US FOR A

SWEETHEART

father-daughter, mother-son
or child with a special adult

DANCE

MUSIC * SNACKS & DRINKS AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE

February
3rd, 2024

TICKET PRICES:

\$25.00 PER COUPLE
\$10.00 EACH ADDITIONAL CHILD

6:00pm

8:00pm

CTK PENN CAMPUS GYM

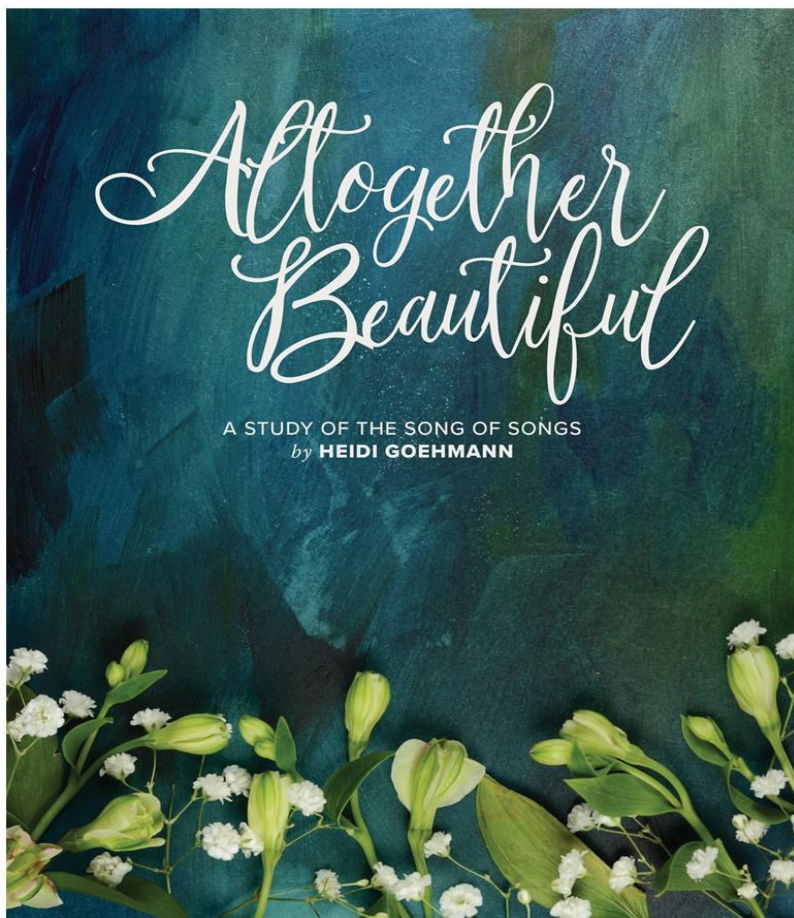
16700 PENNSYLVANIA ROAD, SOUTHGATE

Email Gina for tickets hsyouth@ctk.me

Purchase tickets by January 14, 2024



LWML Bible Study



Starting January 6, 2024
First Saturday of the Month
from 9:30-11:00am
Location: Christ the King, Penn Campus
Contact: Gina Davidson
Register at gmd.lwml@gmail.com

Pastor's Message

“Epiphany” comes from the Greek word “epiphaneia” and means “appearance” or “manifestation.” It refers to the manifestation of Jesus Christ to the world and calls to mind Paul’s words to Timothy: “Great indeed, we confess, is the mystery of godliness: He was manifested in the flesh, vindicated by the Spirit, seen by angels, proclaimed among the nations, believed on in the world, taken up in glory.” (1 Timothy 3:16). This verse is written in poetic form, and perhaps reflects an ancient creedal hymn about Jesus’ life. From the Christmas miracle, we now move to the manifestation of God’s promises fulfilled. God’s plan of salvation continues to be accomplished within the history of mankind, going all the way back to the first book of the Bible. Genesis 3:15 gives us the first Gospel promise, “I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring. He shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel.” God Himself prophesied the Incarnation with the words, “her offspring.” We know that Jesus fulfills this prophecy by His birth in Bethlehem. Satan “bruised” the heel of offspring of the woman on Good Friday at Calvary. But Jesus “bruised” his head when He defeated death on Easter Sunday. This plan is manifested in the person of Jesus Christ. May we find joy in Him this New Year!

In Christ, Pastor Jason Cashmer

